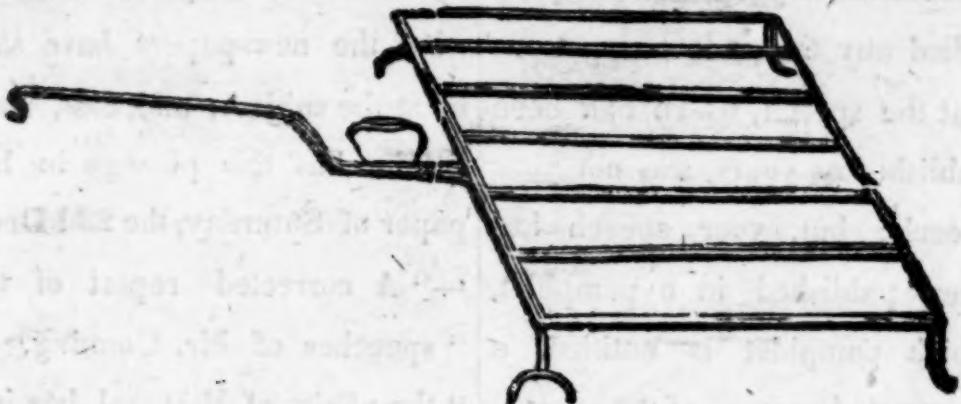


COBBETT's WEEKLY POLITICAL REGISTER

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"In like manner did Cicero provoke Anthony, to the great mischief of
"the Empire; and Demosthenes incensed Philip, to the ruin of the
"Athenians; and there is no State or Government but has been highly
"injured by this wicked art: no society of men that ever lent their ears
"to the charms of eloquence, that has not been extremely mischieved
"thereby: wherefore Socrates thinks rhetoricians worthy of no respect,
"and will not allow them any power in a well ordered commonwealth.
"And Plato excludes them from his commonwealth, with the same con-
"tempt that he rejects PLAYERS and POETS, and not without reason;
"for, there is nothing more dangerous, in civil affairs, than this deluding
"mystery, as from whence all prevaricators, juggling shufflers, back-
"biters, sycophants, and all other lewd and vile tongued persons derive
"their malice and knavery."—CORNELIUS AGRIPPA. *Chapter VI.*

POSTSCRIPT

TO

MR. CANNING.

Kensington, 27th Dec. 1826.

SIR,

WHEN I concluded the last Letter which I addressed to you, I did not imagine that it would be necessary for me to address you again upon the subject of this

kind of mongrel war: half peace and half hostility, half royalist and half jacobin. But, since that Letter was written, some curious things have occurred. I called upon you, in my first Letter, to

A

ENTERED AT STATIONERS' HALL.



disavow the jacobin speech, if it were not yours. You have not *disavowed* it; you have not published any thing, declaring to us that the speech, which had been published as yours, was not your speech; but, your speech has been published in a pamphlet, which pamphlet is entitled, a "corrected report" of the speech. The title does not say, that you have corrected this report yourself; but this is *said for you*, in various paragraphs, scattered through the newspapers. So that, after all, we have only newspaper authority for supposing (if we do suppose it) that you have retracted your sentiments; or, as the newspapers call it, eaten your words.

However, it is but fair to presume, that you have corrected this speech yourself; that you have edited the pamphlet, in short; and that, of course, you have eaten your words, if we shall find that there has been a devouring of this sort going on in the getting up of this pamphlet. Before I come to

a comparison of the pamphlet-speech with the newspaper-speech, it will be necessary to see a little what the newspapers have said upon the subject; and, first, Anna Brodie has this passage in her paper of Saturday, the 23d Dec.: —“A corrected report of the “speeches of Mr. Canning, on “the affairs of Portugal, has just “been published by Mr. RIDGE- “WAY. As it is *understood that* “Mr. Canning has himself su- “perintended this publication, it “is but common fairness to judge “of his opinions rather by the de- “liberate avowal of his *written* “*testimony*, than by the *glowing* “and *impetuous expressions* which “burst from an orator in the hurry “of excited feeling. The speeches “now printed are certainly less “eloquent, but they are decidedly “more discreet than those uttered “in the House of Commons. “Whole sentences have been “omitted, and vehement expres- “sions are neutralized by calm “and qualifying adjuncts. This “at least shows that if Mr. Can-

"ning, from the ardour of his
"nature, is liable to err, he has
"sufficient candour and manliness
"of mind to avow and correct
"his errors."

Thus, this paper, which actually led the way, which actually, as I shall show by-and-by, called for the speech, just as it stood reported; this paper does not pretend to say that the newspaper report was *incorrect*; does not pretend to say, that you were misrepresented even in any one particular; but seems to admit, and, indeed, does admit, that the speech was *indiscreet*; that it was uttered in the heat of oratory; or, as it pretends, of debate. The *Morning Herald* has, however, made some remarks of a much more sensible character, upon the subject of this correcting pamphlet. It says, after observing on the fact of the publication of the pamphlet, that whole passages of what you uttered are left out, and passages which were not uttered, and which convey a sense different from what you did utter, are added. The

Herald is surprised at this, having been firmly convinced, not only that the original report was correct, but that it contained the sentiments of the whole of the ministry. On the subject of the incorrectness of the first report, or, rather, on the subject of the *explanation* now sent about by your friends; namely, that the words were uttered in the "heat of debate," that there was *no debate*; and, besides, the speech being an opening speech, and coming from the War Minister as an *exposé* resulting from mature deliberation, and stating the principles on which the Government intended to act; that the public had a right to consider this speech as something equal in point of authority to a speech from the King himself. Then the *Herald* observes on what must have stricken every man; namely, the altering, by a written speech, a man's actual speech, and the altering of it by himself, too, and that, moreover, without any pretext of having been misrepre-

sented. It is, as the *Herald* says, a dangerous thing, as a precedent, if a man is to be allowed to do this, *under pretence of having been carried away by his subject!* Very true; but the mischief has been done; and, I shall be much deceived if this speech do not give rise, at a near or more distant date, to consequences which will verify the truth of the words which I have taken for my motto.

Now, before I come to the fact of alteration or no alteration in the speech, let me observe, that I have seen three several gentlemen who were present at the delivery of the speech; and, one of them related to me, even before I saw the newspaper which contained the report, the substance and many of the expressions of the speech, as published in the newspapers, and as inserted by me in the Register. I believe these gentlemen. I cannot disbelieve them: their account of the speech corresponded with what afterwards I saw in print: it is next to impossible that both should be

in error. Besides, is it not very singular, that the passages, and precisely the passages which I marked by italic characters when I inserted the speech in the Register, *should have undergone alteration and great alteration in the pamphlet-speech?* This is very singular; and, whatever you may think about the matter, the public both think and say that the pamphlet never would have appeared, had it not been for my commentary on the speech.

Let me, now, take a view of these alterations: let me see how the pamphlet differs from the newspaper, and, then, I shall, perhaps, have time and room to show, that the speech, even as amended, is odious in the extreme, and calculated to produce, like the flippant and insolent speeches and paragraphs with regard to America before the late war, the worst of consequences to this country.

In the Pamphlet.

I dread war from an apprehension of the tremendous consequences which might arise from any hostilities in which we might now be engaged.

In the Newspaper.

I dread war from a consciousness of the tremendous power Great Britain possesses, in pushing hostilities, in which she may be engaged, to consequences which I shudder to contemplate.

So, so ! the tremendous consequences, mentioned in the pamphlet, may be interpreted to apply to *ourselves*, as well as to those with whom we should be at war. It is a vague expression : quite different from the newspaper version ; for, there the consequences are to come from *our pushing hostilities* to the extent of *our tremendous power*. There is, in the new version, nothing about *shuddering* ; and I can produce three gentlemen that can take their oaths that you uttered the word *shudder*. There is a story about an Irishman, who met a lady in the streets of Dublin, and, going up to her in a begging attitude, asked her for a shilling, saying, at the same time, that, if she refused him, he should be *driven to do that which he shuddered but to think of*. The affrighted lady, having thrust her

hand into her pocket, pulled out the shilling and gave it him ; and wishing to know the amount of the effects of her charity, asked the suppliant to tell her, now that the peril was over, "*what was that which he was afraid he should be driven to do ?*" The sturdy vagabond answered, with a soft smile, "*Why to go to work, by Jases!*" Now, when it was related to me, before I saw the newspaper report, that you had made use of this word *shudder*, I immediately observed, to the gentleman who related the substance of the speech to me, why, that is like the fellow in Dublin ; only, that was a case of working and not of fighting. And, Canning tells the foreign powers, that if they do not remain at peace, he shall be driven to fight ; and that then he shall be a very devil incarnate.

in these two passages; a difference so great, that, if the pamphlet be correct, these newspaper reporters are pretty fellows to be suffered to publish ex parte examinations taken before magistrates. Either these reporters are

persons sent to make reports; or, they make false reports, and have made a most wickedly false one upon this occasion; or, your amendment of the speech is that which it is unnecessary for me to call by its right name.

In the Pamphlet.

It was by neutrality alone that we could maintain that balance, the preservation of which I believe to be essential to the *welfare of mankind.*

You have been very nice in weeding. Your half poetry and half prose has undergone a pretty sharp operation. There is a great deal of difference between the welfare of mankind thus loosely expressed, and the *peace and safety of the world.* Upon reconsideration,

In the Newspaper.

It was in the position of neutrality, alone, we could maintain that balance, the preservation of which I believe to be essential to the *peace and safety of the world.*

you began to perceive, that this boast of having the peace and safety of the world in your hands, was a little too bold. You, therefore, ate up a little piece of this sentence; or, as the country people say, *drew in your horns.*

In the Pamphlet.

It is, to be sure, within narrow limits that this war of opinion is at present confined: but, it is a war of opinion, that Spain (whether as a Government or as a nation) is now waging against Portugal; it is a war of the new institutions of Portugal. How long is it reasonable to expect that Portugal will abstain from re-

In the Newspaper.

I fear that the next war to be kindled in Europe, if it spread beyond the narrow limits of Spain merely of *conflicting armies,* but of which has commenced in the *hatred* of the *new institutions of Portugal.* I know, that, if into that war this country enter (and if she do engage, I trust it will be with a most sincere

taliation? If into *that war* this coun- desire to mitigate rather than exas-
try shall be compelled to enter, we perate, and to contend with arms
shall enter into it with a sincere and rather than with the more fatal ar-
anxious desire to mitigate rather tillery of popular excitation), *she will*
than exasperate, and to mingle only *see under her banners, arrayed for the*
in the conflict of arms, not in the *contest*, all the discontented and rest-
more fatal conflict of opinions. But less spirits of the age; all those who,
I much fear, that this country (*how- whether justly or unjustly*, are dis-
ever earnestly *she may endeavour to* satisfied with the present state of
avoid it) could not, in such case, their own countries.
avoid seeing ranged under her banners
all the restless and dissatisfied of
any nation with which she might come
in conflict.

Never in this world was there such a palpable eating of words; and never was there act of speech-maker which more fully came up to the description of Cornelius Agrippa. Let us look into this matter a little bit. The newspaper speech told us, that the next war kindled in Europe, was to call forth the furies which we had in our leash; that war was to be a contest of the discontented of all countries against their Governments; but, now behold the opinions, the war of opinions, is become a war commenced in hatred of the new institutions of Portugal! Then comes the question put by you, how long it is reason-

able to expect that Portugal is to abstain from retaliation? So that, here, the war of opinions, in which, all the restless *spirits of the age* were to be engaged; this war of opinions is now to extend only against Spain, according to the pamphlet-speech, at any rate. Nothing was ever more palpable than this total disagreement. The furies of war, war applied to all nations; dissatisfied spirits, and of several *countries* (in the plural, mind): all this is now made to mean merely that, if Spain cherishes the malcontents of Portugal, Portugal and we at her back shall be compelled to cherish the malcontents of Spain. That is all.

So that ÆOLUS has put forth one of his bags and catched up some of the most dangerous of the winds.

But, this which I have just quoted, is the "BANNER" scene. It resembles, only that it is on the other side of the question, the "DAGGER-scene" of BURKE. By the way, Sir, that dagger-scene is worth talking of just at this time. In one of your half prose, half poetry things in the Anti-jacobin, you called BURKE the "lamented sage," he being dead when the poem, as it is called, was published. Now, this "dagger-scene" was as follows: Burke, whose conversion from Foxiteism to Pittiteism has already cost this country somewhat approaching to *a hundred thousand pounds*, being inspired by the touch of his new pension, came into the House of Commons, where he described the works and the disposition of the jacobins of that day; where he spoke of the restless and discontented spirits of the age; and, where, after having declaimed for a good while against the then Go-

vernment of France as having the seditious, the traitors, and the desolating ruffians of all countries ranged under her banners, he, after having three or four times, in his truly hibernian style, called upon the Parliament, or, rather, upon the Foxites to say, *what the French Government had in reserve for them*: "I will show you what it is!" said he; and, while he said this, he rammed his hand under his coat, by his side, and, drawing forth a long and bloody dagger, flung it upon the floor of the House. Now, Sir, if an orator in France, or in Spain, were to act this part; were disposed to do so ridiculous and despicable a thing as this "lamented sage" did upon this occasion; if even a Spanish monk were disposed to do such a thing as this, has not he just as good ground for doing it; would he not be full as much justified in representing your friendship to consist of a dagger as BURKE was in representing the friendship of the Convention of France as being represented by that bloody instru-

ment? Curious enough to observe, that you were amongst the most devoted followers and the loudest eulogists of Burke! ~~+~~

Let us, however, come to the "banner-scene"; and, here the twisting and turning is curious, indeed. But, before we actually come to the "banner," let us see how impossible it is to believe, that your speech really was what it is now in the pamphlet. First, you say in the pamphlet, that this war is at present confined within narrow limits. Then, you say that it is founded in the hatred of Spain against the new institutions of Portugal; then you suggest that Portugal may retaliate, and, then comes the strange assertion that you hope that any part that we shall take in that war, will *not be a conflict of opinions*. So that, away goes entirely the whole pith of your speech. You expect that Portugal will retaliate. You expect that she will carry on a war of opinions; and here we have you saying, that if we enter into that war with Portugal, we shall,

you trust, not meddle with the conflict in the way of opinions, but in the way of arms!

Now comes the "banner-scene." In the newspaper report, you are made to say, that if the war spread *beyond the narrow limits of Spain and Portugal*, it will be a war of a most tremendous character; that if this country enter into that war, she will see *under her banners*, arrayed for the contest, all the discontented and restless spirits of the age; all those who, whether justly or unjustly, are dissatisfied with the present state of their own countries. Here, then, is the "banner-scene": you will see, under your banners, arrayed for the contest, all these dissatisfied persons. You will see (the reported speech says) not only all the discontented persons in one country, but all the discontented persons in all countries; and the context says that you would employ them; and, indeed, that OUR SECURITY CONSISTS in the knowledge which foreign sovereigns have, that you would and

could, in such case, employ these mischievous persons in this work of devastation and desolation. But, how all this is frittered away ; how the fire is taken out of the component parts of the thunder ; how the bullet is taken out of the barrel ; aye, and the powder, too, and nothing left but a hissing flash in the pan ; how all this is accomplished by the pamphlet version of your speech. Here you much fear that this country could not avoid seeing ranked under her banners ; then she would earnestly endeavour to avoid seeing it ; then, it is no longer the restless spirits of the age ; it is no longer all those who, whether justly or unjustly, are dissatisfied with the present state of their own countries (in the plural, mind, as I said before) ; but only, "of any nation with

whom we might come in conflict." If this be not an eating of words ; if you be not here flagrantly and shamelessly unsaying that which so many persons heard you say, these reporters and "best public instructors" are amongst the greatest liars and villains that ever walked on the face of the earth. Yet, you do not accuse them. Nobody reproves them. Nobody charges incorrectness upon them : so that, here is the strangest thing that ever was heard of in the world ; a minister of state publishing, under the form of a corrected speech, a disavowal and contradiction of that which had been published from the debate actually taken ; and, at the same time, he makes a complaint against nobody as having misrepresented him.

In the Pamphlet.

It is the contemplation of this new power in any future war, which situation [having the dissatisfied excites my most anxious apprehension. It is one thing to have a giant's strength, but it would be another to use it like a giant. *The consciousness of such strength is, undoubtedly, a source of confidence and*

In the Newspaper.

The consciousness of such a power, to be wielded by Great Britain, more tremendous than was, perhaps, ever yet brought into action in the history of mankind [hear

security; but, in the situation in *hear!*]. But, though it may be which this country stands, our business is not to seek opportunities of displaying it, but to content ourselves with letting the professors of violent and exaggerated doctrines on both sides feel, that it is not their interest to convert an umpire into an adversary.

excellent to have a giant's power, it may be tyrannous to use it like a giant. The knowledge that we possess this strength, IS OUR SECURITY; and our business is, not to seek opportunities of displaying it but, by a partial and half shown exhibition of it, to make it felt that it is the interest of exaggerators on both sides, to shrink from converting their umpire into their competitor.

One thing would rather dispose me to believe that this part of the pamphlet is more your own than the corresponding part of the newspaper speech; and this thing is, that the pamphlet is nonsense, and the speech sense. In the pamphlet, you talk of "this *new power.*" What power? The pamphlet says nothing of any power: it describes no power; but, the newspaper speech speaks of a power, to be wielded by Great Britain, more tremendous than was, perhaps, ever brought into action in the history of mankind; that power is the aid of the restless spirits ranged under our banners; and our security is to arise, according to the newspaper speech, from the knowledge that foreign

powers have that we possess this power; that these terrible jacobins are always at our command; and that to touch us is like a powdered beau's coming in contact with a chimney-sweep. Adopt the doctrine of this newspaper speech, and the American skunk is no bad type of our government: men hate it and despise it both: it would be knocked down and killed a hundred times over: but, it has the power of sending its stink out upon its pursuer; and that stink is so dreadful, that it compels people to burn every garment that has been touched by it, and, if it have touched their hair, compels them to shave their heads. The skunk owes its security to the knowledge which the hunters have, that it possesses

this pestilent power of flinging out its stink. But, when we come to the pamphlet, what a dull and inconsistent affair do we find! You do not, here, talk of a power arising from people under your banners; for, here you say that you would avoid having them under your banners if you could; and then comes the curious twist, that, instead of "*the knowledge that we possess this strength,*" which means the knowledge that our *foes* have, you have got, in the pamphlet "*the consciousness of such strength:*" and then, when we have seen that this applies to our own knowledge or opinion, and not to the knowledge of the enemy that may be at war with us, comes the curious assertion, that this consciousness is to be a *source of our security!* Stupider stuff than this never was put upon paper, or uttered by lips. The passage from VIRGIL you could not alter nor suppress: that was down in black and white; and, yet, if you had in contemplation no other power than merely that of assisting Portugal to

retaliate the fight of opinions upon Spain, or, at the most, no other power than that to be derived from seeing ranked under your banners, men whom you would see ranked there with *great reluctance*, and whom, of course, you would not think of employing, how does the comparison of England to that of Æolus answer; and, what worse than miserable nonsense is it to talk of deriving security from the mere consciousness of having the opinions and the bodily efforts of jacobins at your command; and how does it answer with your assertion, which you could not expunge from the speech, that you had the furies of war in your hands, and that you had the power of letting them slip at your pleasure?

Having now shown that the speech which obtained you the shouts of the thoughtless, has been almost wholly frittered away by your pamphlet version, I have to observe, that there is still enough left in it to form a just ground of complaint, at the least, on the part of any and of all the great powers

of Europe. That the jacobin threat was foolish is now evident to all the world: every body says it; but, folly is not the worst of its qualities: it has a tendency to produce great mischief. It is despised, as you may learn from reading the French newspapers; but, acts contemptible in themselves have very frequently been the original cause of most enormous national mischiefs. If you have retracted for yourself, however, you have not retracted for Mr. Brougham, who, outstripping his leader, praised the principles which you laid down, in the loftiest strain. He called them sound, enlightened, liberal and truly English principles; he bestowed these praises on your declaration, amongst other things, that our security consisted in the knowledge which our foes had, that all the discontented in the world were ranked under our banners. His praise was not bestowed on the pamphlet speech, but on that speech, the report of which we read in the newspapers. This *sound* gentle-

man admired the jacobin principles so much, the banner and the leash, and all the rest of the incomparable rubbish, that he appears to have thought it a sovereign remedy even for the National Debt. "If," said he, "war should come upon us, *whatever may be our burthens*, whatever may be the difficulties with which we may have to contend, let but his Majesty's Government act steadily up to the principles which they have avowed, and let the country but remain *true to itself*, and I have no fear for the rest." Oh Lord! no: no fear at all: no fear of adding another five hundred millions to the National Debt: no fear of another Bank Restriction Act: no fear of an issue of assignats: no fear of seeing a pig, worth half-a-crown in money, sell for five pounds in paper. This old hackneyed phrase about the country being "*true to itself*," has produced, before now, mischiefs enough: it is now played off again by another of CORNELIUS AGRIPPA'S men;

and, in all human probability, and, at the same time, saying nothing with something resembling its former effects. PITT made use of it hundreds, and, perhaps, thousands of times: it was a sort of standing excitation to the spending of the public money, for which spending this beggared nation is now bleeding at every pore. One would think that for a nation to be true to itself was for it to consult, and act according to, its own interests: to save its money from the claws of contractors and commissaries and the mouths of standing armies. One would think, that, being true to one's self meant, the taking care of No. 1; but, Mr. Brougham seems to think, that for a nation to be true to itself has no meaning at all connected with that common sense which is, unhappily, but too frequently gone a wandering when this learned gentleman's speeches are composed.

It is impossible to find terms and epithets too severe to apply to this hectoring manner of talking about our power to make war,

thing that has any distinctness in it, as to the means of carrying on that war. This is not the way in which a sensible man ought to talk: such a man ought to estimate the means as justly as he can, and, when he has so done, to state whether, or not, those means be sufficient. Every man in England, who knows any thing of such matters, knows that we cannot enter into war to any extent and for any length of time, without making *enormous loans*. It may be very well for stock-jobbers and loan-mongers, the latter of whom have nothing to do but merely to write their names upon bits of paper, to draw to themselves, and out of the pockets of the people at large, millions of money. It may be very well for such people to praise warlike undertakings; but, before a sensible man, not having a mercenary object in view, had praised this wild incentive to war, he would have asked himself a question or two: *First*, whether such war would

not inevitably produce another Bank Restriction with all its consequences, which consequences, as described by Lord GRENVILLE, at the time when Peel's Bill was passed, were more to be deprecated than revolution itself? *Second*, he would have asked himself what was to be the tenor of the future loan-bills; whether the interest on those loans was to be paid as the interest of the last loans is, in a gold and silver currency? And, *thirdly*, he would have asked himself what might possibly be the *consequences at home*, of acting upon your "*truly English principles*"?

None of these, however, were, I must confess, to be expected from Mr. BROUGHAM, who has never, as far as I recollect, discovered one grain of sound and sober judgment. It is all flight with him: all hop, skip and jump: all the apparent effect of that sort of caprice, that sort of unsettled mode of acting, which is, in the old-fashioned phrase, described as the *biting of the maggot*. He

never has, according to my recollection, proved to be right, in the end, upon any one great subject. But, there appears to be, at this time, a sort of intrigue going on, the expected effect of which probably is, to change the situation of Mr. BROUGHAM. I pretend to understand nothing at all about these intrigues; but, I will tell you what many people think, and what some people say. They say, then, that Lord LANSDOWN and Mr. BROUGHAM are about *to come into the ministry*, and are to turn out two of that part of the ministry who are supposed not to agree with you. I am very much disposed to laugh at this opinion; but, certainly, it does receive some countenance from the circumstance of your speech having been, *under your authority*, and with your revision, PUBLISHED AT RIDGWAY'S SHOP.— Mr. RIDGWAY was one of the greatest of all the sufferers in the terrible days of PITT and DUNDAS, and, I might say, of you, too; for, you were in place and in power at

the time of his suffering. Mr. RIDGWAY was shut up, at two separate times, four years in Newgate, for being the publisher of things not a thousandth part so seditious, so hostile to every establishment, civil and religious, as the newspaper edition of your speech. But, this is far from being all, for, Mr. RIDGWAY might have changed, like you, from an anti-jacobin to a "liberal"; Mr. RIDGWAY has, however, never changed at all. He has been what is called the Whig-publisher for a great many years. He sends forth to the world all the profound and learned lucubrations of JOHN CAM HOBHOUSE and of Lord JOHN RUSSELL. He is, in short, the political bookseller of that portion of the aristocracy who belong to what are ludicrously called the *Whigs*, or, still more ludicrously, "the gentlemen opposite." Now, it is no trifling circumstance, that your speech is published by RIDGWAY. The speeches of Lord LIVERPOOL, and others of the ministers, have, of late years, been

published by Mr. HATCHARD; and, it would be curious to discover the reason why you have resorted to the shop of the "Whigs." The truth is, I believe, that there is no political party, no opposition worth speaking of, *except in the cabinet itself!* This is a curious state of things; but, such I believe it is. Now, Sir, what the people, who engage in that very pleasant and profitable amusement, commonly called talking politics; what these people say, is this: that you, Mr. Huskisson, and one or two more, who are of the enlightened, liberal, and free-trade sect, are endeavouring to obtain a greater influence than those of whom the Lord Chancellor is the head; and that, Mr. BROUGHAM, seeing this, and loving the Chancellor as an old dark-faced personage is said to love holy-water, cries you up, not so much for your own sake, as for the purpose of giving a pluck at the robes of the Chancellor. Mr. BROUGHAM has, as I said before, always appeared to me to be deficient in point of judgment,

and, if he were not deficient here, he would, if such be his object, take care, above all things, to abstain from praising you. Of this I am quite certain, that, if the expedition to Portugal fail, and bring on us expense for the purpose of purchasing nothing but disgrace, the words of my old author, CORNELIUS AGRIPPA, will be in the mouth of every man in England, and that you are for ever extinguished as a minister, Mr. BROUGHAM sinking, at the same time, into the socket, and going off in a smell much more sympathetic than savoury. Like

SAUL and JONATHAN, you will have gone along together in your lives, and in your deaths you will not be divided. Something may depend upon flesh and blood; but, if the Chancellor be sound, wind and limb, and thus continue (as I am told he is likely to do) for several years longer, he will beat you, and every other enterprizing free-trader, whatever may be the quantum of noise that nature has enabled him to make with his

tongue. The Lord Chancellor, and his brother still less, is not a great talker; they are none of CORNELIUS AGRIPPA's men; they never shone much in the art of haranguing; but they have had three fourths of the governing of this country in their hands for a great many years; and, while the Chancellor has the full confidence of a very great majority of the noblemen and gentlemen, he has at his back, sticking to him everlasting, that body called *the Church*, of which you, great talker as you are, appear to think so little.

Nevertheless, I do verily believe that Mr. Brongham expects that some lucky chance will put it in your power to show that you are not insensible of his support upon this occasion. You have with you, too, the very sapient Member for the Borough, who was, we recollect, a most strenuous advocate for the Cortes of Spain, and who now seems to sigh for a war against the priests of the Peninsula, forgetting (as

great wits are apt to have short memories) that, when we obtained victories on that Peninsula, we actually fought under the banners of the priests. Priests are priests, Sir, in all countries, and in all religions; and, as the late Bishop HORSLEY tendered his open arms to receive the Catholic refugee priests from France; so, be you assured, that the present new Constitution of Portugal, and the present armament to support it, will never be popular with the clergy in England; I mean, that clergy whose property consists of tithes and church-lands, and whose families depend on the existence of the Establishment. This Establishment is already enough shaken in the minds of the people of England, without their being called upon to pay taxes to support a war against priests: such a war could not possibly be carried on for any length of time, without adding greatly to this shock, which our clergy have not failed to feel.

As to the state of the struggle in

Portugal, it appears, from all the published accounts that have been received, that the great body of the common people are opposed to the new Constitution. I do not know that this is the case, but such is the conclusion fairly to be drawn from all the published accounts that I have seen. Now, if this be the case, what right have we to interfere? As to duty, that is wholly out of the question. You remember, as well as I do, and you ought to remember it better, because you have been well paid for it; you must remember that, in the year 1792, the then French Government, of which the King, observe, was still at the head, complained that we had grossly violated the treaty of amity and commerce that was then existing between us and France; and all the world knows, that the complaint was just. Our answer was, *that the form of Government in France had been changed*, and that we were not strictly bound to adhere to the letter of our treaty in this new state of things. How,

then, are we bound by our treaties with the ancient Government of Portugal? If Portugal were to become a sheer democratical republic, should we still be bound to adhere to our treaties, made with the ancient Government of Portugal? Recollect, Sir, that when LOUIS XVI. was put to death, we withdrew our ambassador, the half brother, I believe, of the present ambassador at Paris. We sent away the French ambassador; or, at least, ceased to give him credit, alleging that the embassy was sent by the King of France, and that our ambassador was sent to Paris to the King of France; and that the Government of France having been totally changed, our compacts with her came all to an end at once. Now, at the time when this took place, or very soon afterwards, you were Under Secretary of State to Lord GRENVILLE, who was the person that gave M. CHAUVELIN his dismissal. Let me ask, then, upon what principle it is that you contend, that we are

still bound, though at the risk of our own safety, to plunge into a war, in consequence of our treaties with the ancient Government of Portugal. The King of Portugal; or the sovereign of Portugal, whatever he may call himself, who lives in the Brazils, is not dead indeed, but by what right has he ordered a change to be made in the fundamental laws of the kingdom of Portugal? Have not the nobles of Portugal, have not the clergy of Portugal, rights as well as their King? And, unless their consent had been previously obtained, aye, and the consent of the people at large too, was a new Government, was the form of a new mode of governing Portugal to be sent over from a colony of that same Portugal, and left there, good naturedly, by Sir William A'Court, the English ambassador, as he was coming home: just as one neighbour takes a letter from another, and leaves it on his way to his own house! I respect those Portuguese who have not been willing

to have a new government thus imposed upon them. Would you contend that the King of England, who has sworn to maintain the laws as they are, has a right to take a new Constitution from the pigeon-holes of JERRY BENTHAM, and send it forth and order us to obey it? The Lord Chancellor, when he was Attorney General, said, upon the trial of HARDY and TOOKE, that the King of England ought to die, and that *he trusted he would die*, if he attempted to alter the Constitution as it then stood, and which he had sworn to uphold and defend. This was regarded by many persons as going great lengths; but, if this doctrine were to be listened to for one half moment, shall we not applaud the conduct of the people of Portugal, for resisting a thing called a new Constitution, imposed on them with so little ceremony?

Then, as to the example: if Portugal can be treated thus, why not any other country, and, amongst the rest, why not England? We boast of a charter,

called Magna Charta; but, remember, that that was not a thing whereby the government of the country was *changed*, that it was not a thing issuing from the will of any sovereign; that it was not a thing taken from the pigeon-holes of Constitution-makers; that, in short, it was nothing new; but, was a recognition and confirmation of the ancient rights of the people of England; it was not obtained by the "restless spirits of the age"; it was obtained by men carrying "banners," indeed; but, banners on which were written the words "nolumus legis angliae mutari"; that is to say, "we will not change the laws of England."

Then, again, if we be the inventors, the authors, or even the suggestors of this new Constitution for Portugal, how does that square with the principle upon which you have, all your life long, maintained the inviolability of Old Sarum and Gatton. What a monstrous figure do we make in the world, if we be the authors of

this new Constitution, which, as it is pretended, gives political rights to the people of Portugal, while, in England, two members at one time are sent to Parliament by one single vote! The great consideration is, however, that, if a majority of the people in Portugal, or any thing like a majority of those people, be hostile to the new Constitution, then we have sent troops to take part in a civil war, which is a case never contemplated by our ancient treaty with Portugal; that treaty being with the whole of Portugal, and not with one part of the people of that country. If, too, the party against the Constitution be strong, when are we to withdraw our troops? Thus we are involved in the expenses of war, without the possibility of compensation for those expenses; we thus make ourselves a party in the disputes and bloody frays of contending factions; disputes and frays arising out of our own miserable meddlings in the internal affairs of other States.

As to Spain, I have yet seen

nothing to convince me that she has been guilty of any act of hostility against Portugal. *She must have acknowledged the new Government of Portugal*, before she could be guilty of any act of aggression against it: she has not yet done this; and I cannot perceive that a single Spanish soldier has yet crossed the frontiers of Portugal; and if whole Spanish regiments had crossed the frontiers, has not Spain as good a right to march to the aid of the royalists, as England has to send troops and ships to the aid of the revolutionists? You laid no papers before the House to prove that Spain had sent any troops into Portugal. Your able Lieutenant-General, Mr. BROUGHAM, alleged the *notoriety* of the hostile conduct of Spain. This was not quite enough; and I can discover no one fact that would lead me to believe that Spain had been guilty of an act of aggression towards the Portuguese nation. Our treaties bound us to defend Portugal against acts tending to

its subjugation to a foreign state; but they never bound us to interfere, except in cases of that sort. So that, after all that you can say, one of two things will take place: a real war with Spain, France, Russia and America; or an expensive armament, kept up by us in Portugal, for the purpose of upholding the new Constitution.

The *Old Times* newspaper has urged you on to this contest. It well knows the popular prejudices contracted against FERDINAND: it seeks its own interest in its bullying balderdash against that king; but, recollect, that it was this identical newspaper, that put forth the prologue to that tragedy in America, which cost us seventy millions of money, and brought on the English arms more disgrace than they had had to sustain for ages and ages. This paper said,

"No peace, till we have deposed
 "James Maddison, till we have
 "destroyed the American consti-
 "tution, and have obliterated for
 "ever that successful example of

"democratical rebellion!" Sir JOSEPH YORKE, then a Lord of the Admiralty, responded from his place in Parliament to the senseless cry, in which he was soon joined by a large part of the Parliament and the nation. We shall have yet to rue the consequences of that cry. We have tasted of some of them, but the much larger part is still behind; for, though you, when bidding for your present office, could talk so prettily at Liverpool, amongst the hungry sycophantic merchants of that place, about "the mother and the daughter," and though Mr. HUGHES, the American envoy to some place or other in the north of Europe, could rival you and, indeed, surpass you in the novel-like stuff about everlasting friendship, that stupid war, first provoked by your flippancy in your despatches during the Presidency of Jefferson; that stupid war, carried on for the purpose of asserting that which England, in former times, had never asserted; that stupid war has actually created a navy;

a great navy; a navy fairly fit to cope with more than two-thirds of our whole force, taking into view the advantageous circumstances of various sorts, which that republic possesses.

You are, Sir, a sprightly, a witty, a voluble man; but, you have said, if the several reports of your speeches speak truth, more foolish things; have given us more instances of ministerial indiscretion; have oftener gratified your greediness for applause as a speaker at the expense of the good and honour of the country; have more frequently excited or aggravated hostility against the State from parties as well at home as abroad, than any man, according to my recollection, that ever made a figure upon the political stage. That the event will, in this case, add another instance to the many that we have formerly beheld, I have no scruple in believing; but, if it do add that other instance, we may console ourselves with the

confident belief, that this instance will be the last.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient and
Most humble Servant,

W.M. COBBETT.

TO

DOCTOR BLACK.

DOCTOR,

I PERCEIVE, with great grief, that you still keep pecking on upon the Judges with regard to the police-reports. You contend for the monstrous privilege of publishing *just what you please* (for, mind, that is it) under the name of police-reports, containing your own representation of what takes place in examinations before magistrates. If this were law, it would be impossible for the character or, even, the property or life of any man to be safe. It is not law; the judges maintain that it is not, and they act accordingly.

We have, before us, at this very moment, a striking instance of the consequences that may attend reports, taken by reporters and published in newspapers. Such reports have held up our Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs as the first jacobin in Europe; and we have Mr. BROUGHAM held up as the eulogist of his jacobinical principles. To this dilemma we come, then : that Mr. CANNING has deliberately published a falsehood, or, rather, several falsehoods, in a pamphlet edited by himself ; or, that, the newspaper reports respecting his speech are falsehoods. But, be this as it may, the mischief was done by the newspapers, whom Mr. BROUGHAM calls the best possible public instructor: so that, here is the "best possible instructor" misrepresenting and disgracing the man whom the eulogist of the "instructor" eulogises to the skies !

Doctor, take my advice : when you write about Judges, let it be about "Dutch Judges," as I used to do, when I was penned up in Newgate. You have been work-

ing upon this twelve long enough ; and, be assured, that if the whole of the thing were swept away tomorrow, even by jacobins, those jacobins would be compelled to get the same thing back again. That which has stood and has weathered the storms for a thousand years, is something like the great works of nature herself. You may praise Mr. PEEL for his ameliorations of the police system ; and he may, from the red waistcoat, blue coat and blue trowsers, get, as I see he has done, to red collar and red cuffs ; then to red facings, then to turning up the laps of the coat, and, at last, to the sabre or the lance, like the *gens d'armes* and *gardes champêtres* of France ; but, he and you and all of you together, will never root out of the hearts and souls of Englishmen, the Judge, the Jury, the Sheriff, the Justice of the Peace, and the Constable ; and, God Almighty forbid that you should !

Doctor, I have heard of a Lord Chancellor stuffed with the twelve Judges ; and, really, you seem to

have a relish for a Judge stuffed with Justices of the Peace. Restrain your monstrous appetite, Doctor: content yourself, like me, with a turkey stuffed with sparrows, which I promise myself as soon as any body (you will say this is "throwing a sprat to catch a herring") will send me a turkey. The sparrows I have got, from a friend in Hampshire, and though these will not keep long, I shall have a supply. Try this dish, Doctor Black; take after it a potle of good strong beer, and I'll engage that you shall sleep for eight hours and never dream of Judges or of Justices of the Peace.

Doctor, I wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year. I have had many a pelting at you during the last, and I trust that God will spare your life, and give you good health for the year that is coming. I am, Doctor,

Your very sincere friend,

And most obedient servant,

Wm. COBBETT.

AMERICAN SEEDS.

In the first place, I have about forty or fifty or sixty bushels of Dwarf Kidney Beans, just received, which I shall sell, by the whole lot, or by a large part, several bushels, at any rate, for seventeen shillings a bushel. They are of two sorts, speckled and yellow, and they are, both, as fine in their quality and as good in their condition, as any that I ever saw in my life. Being grown in a very hot climate, they are a great deal harder than if grown in England; and, very much to my own surprise, I found, last year, that the American beans, two years old, were just as good as those one year old. Those that are grown here, or that come from Holland, are good for little beyond the first year. I dare say, that a hundred persons have written to me, or told me, verbally, of the excellent quality of

these American beans. I am not mounted, as the French call it, as a seedsman, and, therefore, I wish rather to sell by wholesale than by retail; but, I shall keep some, at any rate, to sell by retail; and those I shall sell at the rate of, perhaps, about thirty shillings a bushel; for, a man cannot keep a shop and make up small parcels and sell articles of this sort for much less than double what he purchases them at by wholesale.

TREE AND SHRUB SEEDS.—I have received, and shall receive in a few days, American Tree and Shrub Seeds of about *fifty different sorts*. Some of these have been collected by my correspondent at eight hundred miles from his home, which is New York. I intend to make up a packet of each, to put these packets in a box, and to sell the boxes completed. I cannot dispose of the seeds in small parcels and in single sorts, because I have no convenience for this species of retail, which requires numerous

drawers, great regularity, and a person well skilled in the whole of the business. I must therefore do as I propose; must see the boxes made up at Kensington myself, and must send them into Fleet-street for sale. Some of the seeds, such as the three sorts of *Magnolia*, for instance, will require little boxes of tin or of wood, to contain them and the matter in which they are packed. It is, if I recollect rightly, the same with the *Cornus Florida*, the *Snow-drop* Tree, and several others; till, therefore, I see what the expense of package will be, and have had time to calculate, accurately, the cost of the several Seeds, I cannot say what the price of each collection will be. Some of the Seeds lie in the ground two years; that is to say, they do not come up until the second year, unless great pains be taken and artificial heat be applied. I will, in the list of the Seeds, when it is prepared, note this circumstance against each sort of Seed.

THE WOODLANDS.

THE Second Number of this Work will not be published, as I expected, on the 1st of January. It is all ready but *two engravings*, which this Number must contain, and for which we are obliged to wait for the engraver. I am very sorry for this disappointment; but, the delay will be of a very few days.—When I promised it for the 1st January, I forgot the *Christmas-time*.

WANTED,

Any where within the distance of four or five miles, or thereabouts, of Kensington, A PIECE OF GROUND, WALLED IN. It is wanted to be rented, on a lease of not less than ten years.— Please to make communication by letter (post paid) to 183, Fleet Street, or, personally to me, at Kensington.

In order to save gentlemen the trouble of applying, it is right that I should notice, that I sold my little HORSE, the second day after he was advertized, to a gentleman who wrote for him from the country.

A THIRD EDITION OF A RIDE IN FRANCE,

BY JAMES PAUL COBBETT.

Sold at No. 183, Fleet-Street.

2s. 6d. boards.

MARKETS.

Average Prices of CORN throughout ENGLAND, for the week ending December 15.

Per Quarter.

	s. d.		s. d.
Wheat ..	56 4	Rye	41 3
Barley ..	36 11	Beans	51 1
Oats	30 5	Pease	52 0

Total Quantity of Corn returned as Sold in the Maritime Districts, for the week ended December 15.

	Qrs.		Qrs.
Wheat ..	43,746	Rye	196
Barley ..	48,968	Beans	2,518
Oats ...	9,055	Pease	931

Corn Exchange, Mark Lane.

Quantities and Prices of British Corn, &c. sold and delivered in this Market, during the week ended Saturday, December 18.

	Qrs.	£.	s. d.		s. d.
Wheat..	5,206	for 15,260	19	7	Average, 58 7
Barley..	6,953	.. 13,537	8 10	.....	38 11
Oats..	2,704	.. 4,377	6 1	.....	32 3
Rye....	10	.. 18	8 6	.....	36 10
Beans..	1,135	.. 2,861	19 8	.....	50 5
Pease..	517	.. 1,367	8 3	.....	52 10

Friday, Dec. 22.—The arrivals of all kinds of Grain this week are abundant, and there is a great sup-

ply of Flour. The Wheat trade is very heavy, and may be again reported 1s. per quarter lower. Barley has met a very dull trade at hardly so good prices as Monday. Beans and Pease may each be reported 1s. per quarter lower. The supply of foreign Oats has quite glutted this market for the present, and the trade remains in a very heavy state, at a further decline of 1s. to 2s. per quarter on light ordinary descriptions, of which the foreign supply chiefly consists. There is very little sale for Flour, but the top price is unaltered.

Price on board Ship as under.

Flour, per sack	50s. — 53s.
— Seconds	42s. — 46s.
— North Country ..	40s. — 45s.

Price of Bread.—The price of the 4lb. Loaf is stated at 9½d. by the full-priced Bakers.

COAL MARKET, Dec. 22.

Ships at Market.	Ships sold.	Price.
6 Newcastle	8 .. 28s. 0d. to 33s. 3 <i>l.</i>	
39½ Sunderland	6½.. 30s. 0d.— 36s. 9d.	

Account of Wheat, &c. arrived in the Port of London, from Dec. 18 to Dec. 23, both inclusive.

Qrs.	Qrs.
Wheat .. 5,658	Tares 814
Barley .. 8,982	Linseed .. 3,575
Malt 5,654	Rapeseed .. —
Oats 542	Brank .. 120
Beans ... 724	Mustard .. —
Flour.... 15,311	Flax —
Rye..... 2,015	Hemp ... 12
Pease.... 4,994	Seeds ... —

Foreign.—Wheat, 610; Barley, 1,416; Oats, 69,535; and Beans, 10,061 quarters.

HOPS.

Maidstone, Dec. 21.—There is no variation in the Hop trade, which continues exceedingly dull for all sorts, excepting the best, and they sell at a much greater proportion in price than usual.

SMITHFIELD, Monday, Dec. 25.

On Friday good Beef sold quite as well as on the preceding market day; but Mutton took a jump of 4d. to 6d. a stone, the weather being highly favourable. Though there is to-day a short supply of every thing, prices have given way, owing partly to the weather having become close and damp, and partly to the heavy state of the dead markets. Even the best Beef does not support the

terms of last Monday, 5s. 8d. being quite an outside price. The Mutton trade opened at nearly Friday's prices, but became very flat and lower towards the close: 4s. 4d. is the top price for best polled Sheep, light weights; and 4s. 8d. for choice Downs.

Per Stone of 8 pounds (alive).

	s. d.	s. d.
Beef	4 0	to 5 8
Mutton ...	3 8	— 4 8
Veal :....	5 4	— 6 0
Pork	5 0	— 6 0
Lamb	0 0	— 0 0
Beasts .. 1,025		Sheep .. 10,850
Calves... 50		Pigs ... 70

NEWGATE, (same day.)

Per Stone of 8 pounds (dead).

	s. d.	s. d.
Beef	2 8	to 4 8
Mutton ...	2 4	— 3 4
Veal	3 4	— 5 4
Pork	3 8	— 5 8
Lamb	0 0	— 0 0

LEADENHALL, (same day.)

Per Stone of 8 pounds (dead).

	s. d.	s. d.
Beef	3 2	to 4 4
Mutton ... 2	8	— 3 4
Veal	3 4	— 5 0
Pork	4 0	— 5 4
Lamb	0 0	— 0 0

POTATOES.

SPITALFIELDS, per Ton.			
		l.	s.
Ware	2 10	to	4 10
Middlings.....	2 0	—	0 0
Chats	1 15	—	0 0
Common Red..	0 0	—	0 0
Onions, 0s. 0d.—0s. 0d. per bush.			

BOROUGH, per Ton.

	l.	s.	l.	s.
Ware	2 9	to	4 6	
Middlings.....	2 0	—	3 0	
Chats.....	1 9	—	2 0	
Common Red. .	0 0	—	0 0	

HAY and STRAW, per Load.

Smithfield.—	Hay....	80s. to 105s.
	Straw...	30s. to 36s.
	Clover.	100s. to 126s.
St. James's.—	Hay....	75s. to 110s.
	Straw ..	28s. to 39s
	Clover..	83s. to 126s.
Whitechapel.--	Hay....	70s. to 105s.
	Straw...32s.	to 36s.
	Clover..80s.	to 126s.

AVERAGE PRICE OF CORN, sold in the Maritime Counties of England and Wales, for the Week ended December 15, 1826.

	<i>Wheat.</i>	<i>Barley.</i>	<i>Oats.</i>
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
London*.....	59 0....39 0....33 3		
Essex	57 5....36 10....31 4		
Kent.....	57 5....38 4....29 9		
Sussex.....	52 9....40 8....29 6		
Suffolk	54 11....35 1....30 7		
Cambridgeshire.....	53 11....35 6....28 10		
Norfolk	54 9....34 10....29 8		
Lincolnshire	55 0....40 1....27 6		
Yorkshire	55 10....40 6....28 4		
Durham	57 0....41 0....30 6		
Northumberland	57 3....38 6....35 2		
Cumberland	63 10....40 6....35 9		
Westmoreland	61 10....47 0....34 0		
Lancashire	60 5....44 2....33 1		
Cheshire	59 1....50 10....31 4		
Gloucestershire.....	58 0....43 8....36 11		
Somersetshire	56 1....40 4....32 6		
Monmouthshire.....	65 9....51 1....0 0		
Devonshire.....	58 0....38 2....29 0		
Cornwall.....	57 6....37 11....29 7		
Dorsetshire	53 11....37 5....32 9		
Hampshire	55 0....37 7....30 1		
North Wales	65 6....46 7....31 5		
South Wales	58 11....43 7....28 2		

* The London Average is always that of the Week preceding.

Liverpool, Dec. 19.—With a very moderate importation only, the demand was very slack during the past week for each description of Grain, excepting for the finest qualities of Oats, which obtained late prices.—The market of this day was tolerably well attended; sales, however, were effected only to a moderate extent—last Tuesday's prices for fine qualities of Oats were, notwithstanding, supported.—Wheat was at a decline of about 2d. per 70 lbs.—In other articles of the trade the prices of this day se'nnight were barely maintained.

Imported into Liverpool, from the 12th to the 18th December, 1826, inclusive:—Wheat, 4,730; Barley, 565; Oats, 4,689; Malt, 110; Beans, 201; Pease, 681 quarters. Flour, 1,682 sacks, per 280 lbs. Oatmeal, 1,206 packs, per 240 lbs.

Norwich, Dec. 23.—The supply of Wheat to this day's market was small.—Red, 53s. to 57s.; White to 59s. Only a moderate supply of Barley, and 1s. lower than last week—30s. to 36s.; Oats, 28s. to 33s.; Beans, 43s. to 45s.; Pease, 44s. to 47s.; Boilers, to 56s. per quarter; and Flour, 42s. to 43s. per sack.

Bristol, Dec. 23.—A very great dullness prevails in the Corn trade at this place. Sales are limited, and those few that are effected, may be considered at about the prices below stated:—Wheat, from 5s. 6d. to 7s. 7½d.; Barley, 4s. 3d. to 5s. 6d.; Oats, 3s. 3d. to 4s. 6d.; Beans, 5s. 6d. to 7s. 6d.; and Malt, 5s. 6d. to 8s. 6d. per bushel, Imperial.—Flour, Seconds, 32s. to 43s. per bag.

Ipswich, Dec. 23.—We had a short supply of Corn at market to-day, the sale of which was very dull, and prices rather lower, as follow:—Wheat, 50s. to 60s.; Barley, 32s. to 36s.; Beans, 42s. to 44s.; and Pease, 46s. to 48s. per quarter.

Wisbech, Dec. 23.—The business done in Corn to-day was at the terms of last week.—Red Wheat, 50s. to 56s.; White ditto, 56s. to 58s.; Oats, 22s. to 30s.; and Beans, 48s. to 50s. per quarter.

Wakefield, Dec. 22.—We have a fair supply of Wheat here to-day, and having a good attendance of buyers, the best dry samples have been taken off at last week's prices, and, in some instances, a trifling advance has been obtained; there has been rather more doing in middling and inferior descriptions. Oats and Shelling are heavy sale, without alteration in prices. The supply of Barley fresh up is moderate; the best heavy samples are dull sale, and hardly support the rates of last week, and there is scarcely any demand for the light qualities. Beans are dull sale, and 1s. to 2s. per quarter lower. Rapeseed is more inquired after, and 1*l.* per load dearer.

Newcastle-on-Tyne, Dec. 23.—We had a large supply of Wheat from the farmers this morning, but there has been very little coastwise during the week, and prices were much the same as on this day se'nnight. Rye is slow sale at last week's prices, although we have had not any arrivals this week. The Barley trade is very much depressed, and only the best heavy Norfolk samples are saleable at 40s. per quarter, the other kinds are offering at all prices down to 36s. per quarter. Malt dull sale, and 2s. per qr. lower. We have had some arrivals of foreign Oats this week, but the holders do not seem disposed to force sales, and the farmers' supply was readily sold at last week's prices.

COUNTRY CATTLE AND MEAT MARKETS, &c.

Hornecastle, Dec. 23.—Beef, 6s. to 7s. per stone of 14 lbs.; Mutton, 5d. to 6d.; Pork, 6d.; and Veal, 6d. to 7d. per lb.

Norwich Castle Meadow, Dec. 23.—We had some lots of good Cattle for slaughter at this day's market selling at 8s. to 8s. 6d. per stone of 14 lbs. sinking offal, and a large supply of store Scots at about 4s. per stone when fat; also a few lots of Short Horns at 3s. to 3s. 6d. Cows and Calves but few to-day, and those and homebreds of all sorts a flat sale; of Horses a few good ones of the Cart kind offered, but few of them sold. We had more Sheep penned than last week.—Shearlings, 24s. to 28s.; fat ones to 37s.; Lambs, 13s. to 17s. 6d.; Pigs at low prices; fat ones, to 6s. 6d. per stone; Meat, Beef, 7d. to 9½d.; Veal, 7d. to 9d.; Mutton, 5½d.; and Pork, 5½d. to 8d. per lb.

At *Morpeth Market*, December 20th, there was a good show of Cattle and Sheep; but there being a great demand, they sold readily at last week's prices.—Beef from 5s. 6d. to 6s.; Mutton, 5s. 3d. to 6s. 3d. per stone, sinking offal.

Birmingham Smithfield Market, Dec. 21.—A moderate supply of Beasts and Sheep, and better in quality, and readily sold at a little more money. A fair supply of Pigs, and the trade dull.—Beef 5½d. to 6½d.; Mutton, 5d. to 6½d.; and Veal, 5d. to 7d. per lb. Pork, 8s. 6d. to 9s. per score.—Neat Cattle, 330; Sheep, 502; Pigs, 508.

At *Abingdon Fair*, Dec. 11, there was a considerable show of Stock of all kinds. Good Horses, both of the Nag and Cart kind, sold pretty well, as well as Colts, which were nearly all cleared off. There appeared but little doing in neat Stock: high prices were asked, but could not be obtained, and many Beasts of the lean sort were left unsold. Sheep and Lambs may be fairly said to be selling at half the price they were at the December Fair last year. Upon the whole, there was little business done, except in good horses, which sold readily, and at higher prices than have been obtained at some of the preceding Fairs.